

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

8 Hope Furnace Road, Hope, RI 02831

401 615-7039 - www.pawtuxet.org

Monthly Board Meeting

West Warwick Wastewater Treatment Facility

November 1, 2010

Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Ross Adrain, Fritz Benz, Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Carl Mattson, Ed Soltys, Gary Trott

Call to Order

Chairman Bob Nero called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Nero distributed the agenda; it was approved with additions on a motion by Ms. Leslie which was seconded by Mr. Lancellotta.

Approval of October, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the October meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Mattson, seconded by Mr. Trott.

West Warwick Treatment Facility Post Flood Update

Mr. Goodinson reported that the facility is about 95% back to pre-flood status. Last month, there were just two minor violations of the permit, and those were flood-related. The plant now has 100% grid power. New equipment is energy efficient; ultraviolet treatment is back on line (no more chlorination) and the effluent is remarkably clear. The composting operation will resume in the spring; the sludge is now being sent to Cranston for incineration.

Neutakonkanut Hill Conservancy Request for Support

Ms. Holahan provided information on the Conservancy and its interest in purchasing an 88 acre parcel from Citadel Broadcasting. Part of this parcel could be developed and the Conservancy members would like it preserved as open space. Attorney D'Ovidio suggested that the PRA and the Conservancy sign a Memorandum of Understanding to "determine the feasibility of acquiring ownership of conservation easement rights". On a motion by Mr. Benz, seconded by Ms. Leslie, the board voted to authorize Chairman Nero to sign such a document. The Conservancy has a presentation about the project; we will try to set up a date at our new office; Rita agreed to e-mail possible dates.

FEMA/NRCS Project Update

Ms. Holahan reported that the PRA has a signed service agreement with FEMA for approximately \$30,000 worth of work of debris removal. FEMA has completed site reviews in Cranston (in the areas near Wellington and Perkins Avenues) and Warwick (Belmont Park).

Rita has met with Serve Rhode Island, which has scheduled a service day for Saturday, November 20; they will work with us at Perkins Avenue and Belmont Park. We may also hire minimum security inmates. An ad hoc committee was created with Ms. Holahan, Mr. Goodinson and Mr. Adrain serving.

The NRCS agreement will be significantly larger. This will cover debris removal in the river and 50 feet up the banks. They have completed a second round of surveys and are working on a Damage Survey report. The PRA will hire contractors to do much of this work.

Mr. Adrain expressed concern that NRCS favors chipping of the trees and branches and leaving the chips on site. This could result in large amounts of wood chips in the river and the bay after flooding.

Indemnification By-Law Amendment

Ms. Holahan said that Attorney D'Ovidio basically agreed with the proposed amendment but made some recommendations. He also suggested that we approve all the amendments at once for consistency. The committee will continue to work.

New Office

Mr. Nero reported that the floor and ceiling are done; the walls and floor molding will be next. He said we will need more storage and that we could build a wall unit for that purpose.

Pawtuxet Dam Removal Project

The public comment period has ended and there were no serious submissions objecting to the proposal.

Scituate Board Member

Mr. Nero reported that he still has not received a resignation letter from Mr. Langlais and agreed to contact him; Mr. Langlais also has to notify the town council of his resignation. Associate PRA member Jimmy Johnson is interested in the position.

Sustainable Landscaping Workshop

On November 4, the PRA is co-hosting a workshop with Save The Lakes on sustainable landscaping near water bodies. It will be held at the Coventry Senior Center.

Veterans Square

Mr. Nero reported that we should be submitting the wetland permit application with the next two weeks.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Lancellotta, seconded by Mr. Mattson, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Leslie, Secretary

OCTOBER MINUTES

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

618 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816

401 615-7039 - www.pawtuxet.org

Monthly Board Meeting

Aspray Boathouse, Warwick

October 4, 2010

Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Ross Adrain, Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Carl Mattson, Ed Soltys,

Board Members Absent: Fritz Benz, Jack Lancellotta, Gary Trott (all excused)

Call to Order

Chairman Bob Nero called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Nero distributed the agenda; it was approved with additions on a motion by Mr. Goodinson which was seconded by Mr. Donovan.

Approval of July, August and September, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The amended minutes for the July and August meeting were unanimously approved; the motion to approve the July minutes was made by Mr. Soltys and seconded by Mr. Lockett and the motion to approve the August minutes was made by Mr. Mattson and seconded by Mr. Donovan. The September minutes were approved with minor changes on a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. Soltys.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board went into executive session at 7:20. The regular meeting resumed at 7:50.

OLD BUSINESS

Fish Passage Meeting at Rhodes

The meeting on September 20 went very well with excellent attendance and mostly favorable comments. Several local politicians attended, including Cranston Mayor Allen Fung, Senator Josh Miller, Representatives Joe McNamara and Art Handy. Mr. Nero said that he had spoken with the manager at Rhodes about an official canoe launch there.

PRA Headquarters:

Mr. Nero reported that he repaired the floor and the landlord has paid for some plaster repair. The boiler will have to be cleaned and the walls need painting. Mr. Nero will ask for assistance with that effort. He said he hoped to have our November meeting in the new office. He reported that he had some people from upstream stop in to visit and

that they were interested in preserving some land downstream from the Gainor dam.

Update on FEMA/NRCS Pawtuxet River Debris Removal

Ms. Holahan reported that the follow-up surveys have been done and that after reviewing them, officials from the cities and town requested additional areas be considered. It will take about another week to review the reports and additional sites and to decide if it will be FEMA or NRCS jurisdiction. NRCS will have more responsibility. Regarding how much debris will be removed, our contact said that this project should be classified as an exigency, which should speed processing of funding. NRCS will submit their application to the regional office by the end of October and work could be done in November and December.

FEMA will not spend money on commercial property. It may be a challenge to meet the 90%/10% cost share. We can use city/town match and volunteers. Warwick could provide dumpsters for debris removal. We have to clearly define each project and look to the cities and towns for match. We also have to identify volunteer groups. Mr. Nero said there will be some administrative funding for the PRA and we may be able to hire someone to coordinate the projects. We will have to get bids and Mr. Nero said there were a lot of contractors eager for the work. It was suggested that Warwick could accept natural debris at its compost station and use that as a match.

By-Laws Committee Update

Since our attorney has been busy with other matters, Ms. Holahan reported that she has not pursued getting his OK on the indemnification clause. She distributed copies of a revised draft and discussed it. She will send this version to Attorney D'Ovidio and requested any further comments from the board as quickly as possible as she would like to vote on this new section at the November meeting.

Funding from the Cities and Towns

Mr. Nero reported that Attorney D'Ovidio is pursuing this matter. Scituate and Cranston have paid and Mr. Nero will send an annual report with a cover letter to all the communities.

Howard Property Update

Mr. Nero reported that the survey has been completed (paid for by the landfill consortium). We asked the surveyors to stake the property and meet us at the site to review the survey results. We own more land in some places and less in others than we had believed. The surveyor sent an additional bill for this work for \$1,250; the landfill consortium may be able to pay for all or part of that amount.

Mr. Nero reported that he had a fence contractor there and we need to seal off about 1,200 feet to prevent access by people who dump trash and use recreational vehicles on the property. The estimate for guardrails is \$1,200. He will also explore using boulders and will get

an estimate for boulders versus metal guardrails; if there is a significant saving, he will get three bids. Boulders will also be needed at Ross Simon Drive.

It may be possible to do a land swap with an abutting owner to make access easier.

Mr. Nero also reported that the biodiesel project is proceeding with construction.

Harris Dam Update

Mr. Nero said that apparently, there were no reports indicating that the FEMA/NRCS teams looked at the Harris dam after the flooding. Pieces of cut granite in the dam have fallen out. Mr. Donovan reported that our community service worker has been busy there; he has cleared a lot of vegetation and trees and reported that the low-level gate is working well. He will be doing some diving to determine the condition of parts of the dam that are underwater. He is putting together a phased plan to fix the dam. Ms. Holahan agreed to set up a meeting with NRCS to visit the dam.

Stormwater Management District Grant

Mr. Nero passed around a letter from the Department of Environmental Management indicating that we will not be receiving a grant for this project.

NEW BUSINESS

Spectacle Pond

Mr. Nero reported that a remediation project has been completed at Spectacle Pond in Cranston, which drains into the pond system in Roger Williams Park. Former owners dumped solid waste and fill on a lot on the pond. Technic Corporation, the new owners, have restored two or three acres of the embankment.

Randall Pond

Mr. Nero reported that we are closing in on an agreement with the landowner for access.

Neutaconkanut Hill

The Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy will be doing additional work on the hill. They want to acquire land owned by the former Citadel Broadcasting and they would like to partner with the PRA to explore possible acquisition.

Road Construction

Mr. Adrain reported that road grinding is done without adequate controls to prevent run-off. The contractors do not put up silt fencing.

Airport Expansion

The current proposal for airport expansion includes destruction of

wetlands. There is a proposal to do some restoration of wetlands in the Pawtuxet watershed rather than in the Buckeye Brook watershed where the wetlands would be destroyed.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. Donovan, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 1 at a location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Ginny Leslie, Secretary